

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EEC

SUBJECT: EC REGIONAL POLICY

REF: A. LONDON 2692 B. EC BRUSSELS 1255 C. EC BRUSSELS 1128
C. DUBLIN 369

1. DE CASTELBAJAC, THE EC COMMISSION DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR REGIONAL POLICY, AND CONTACTS IN THE UK AND GERMAN PERMANENT DELEGATIONS HAVE, IN CONVERSATIONS WITH US, EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE EC COUNCIL, ON MARCH 3-4, WILL APPROVE THE PROPOSALS ESTABLISHING THE EC REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND. THERE ARE STILL FRENCH RESERVATIONS ON A) A COMMISSION COMPROMISE ACCEPTED BY THE OTHER MEMBER STATES, WHICH WOULD SOLVE THE TECHNICAL PROBLEM REGARDING UK DEVELOPMENT GRANTS AND CRITERIA FOR JOB MAINTENANCE (SEE REFTELS A AND B) AND B) A BRITISH REQUEST THAT THE COUNCIL TAKE NOTE OF A UK STATEMENT IN THE COUNCIL TO THE EFFECT THAT THE BRITISH REGIONAL AID PROGRAM IS IN CONFORMITY WITH THE EC PROGRAM. OUR CONTACTS ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT THESE ISSUES WILL BE RESOLVED BEFORE OR AT THE COUNCIL MEETING.

2. THE COMMISSION HAS JUST SENT THE COUNCIL A COMMUNICATION ON THE GUIDELINES FOR THE COORDINATION OF MEMBER STATE
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REGIONAL AIDS WHICH WILL GIVE THE BRITISH THREE YEARS TO MAKE

CERTAIN ADJUSTMENTS IN THEIR NATIONAL PROGRAM WHICH WE UNDER-
STAND IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE UK. REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF
IRELAND, RAISED IN REF D, PRESS REPORTS STATE THAT THE
CEILINGS ON REGIONAL AID FOR IRELAND, ALONG WITH THOSE FOR
NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE MEZZOGIORNO, BERLIN AND GREENLAND
WILL BE THOSE WHICH WERE IN EFFECT IN THOSE REGIONS ON JAN. 1,
1975. THE FRENCH AND DUTCH ARE LIKELY TO EXPRESS UNHAPPINESS
WITH THE COMMUNICATION BUT ARE NOT EXPECTED TO MAKE THEIR
APPROVAL OF THE REGIONAL FUND PROPOSALS CONDITIONAL ON
GUIDELINES WHICH SATISFY THEM. THE REGIONAL AID
GUIDELINES PROBLEM IS LIKELY TO REMAIN AFTER THE
FUND PROPOSALS ARE APPROVED.

3. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE GENERAL FEELING AMONG
THE MEMBER STATES IS THAT AS THE REGIONAL FUND WAS
AGREED UPON BY THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AT THE PARIS
SUMMIT IN DECEMBER, IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO
DELAY ITS COMING INTO OPERATION. MYERSON

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